# INTELLIGENCE BRIEF: Lesley Groff — House Oversight Committee Transcribed Interview

**June 9, 2026 | Room 2247, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.**

**Committee on Oversight and Government Reform | Chairman James Comer (R-KY)**

**Source Document:** https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Lesley-Groff-Transcript.pdf
**Release Date:** June 22, 2026[^1]
**Classification of Document:** Public Congressional Transcript

## I. ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

**Witness:** Lesley Groff (spelled "Leslie" on cover page; she spells it L-e-s-l-e-y)[^2]
**Date of Interview:** Tuesday, June 9, 2026[^2]
**Location:** Room 2247, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.[^2]
**Start Time:** 10:00 a.m.[^2]
**Appearance:** Voluntary[^3]

**Witness Counsel:**

- Michael Bachner, Bachner & Associates, P.C., 111 Broadway, Suite 701, New York, NY 10006[^2]
- Jonathan P. Whitcomb, Diserio Martin, 1010 Washington Blvd., Suite 800, Stamford, CT 06901[^2]

**Committee Members Present:** Representatives Comer (Chair), Higgins, Biggs, Perry, Timmons, Boebert, Lynch, Krishnamoorthi, Khanna, Stansbury, Garcia (Ranking Member), Randall, Subramanyam, Ansari, Bell, Tlaib, and Walkinshaw[^2]

**Majority Staff Questioning:** Ellison Tolan (Counsel), Brittany Brignac (Senior Counsel), Jack Emmer (Chief Counsel for Investigations), Daniel Ashworth (General Counsel), Emily Feyerabend (Counsel), Billy Grant (Deputy Chief Counsel for Investigations), Mark Marin (Staff Director), Peter Spectre (Deputy Director for Oversight)[^2]

**Notable Also Present:** Margaret Kibben, Chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives (presence described as atypical for such proceedings)[^4]; Daniel Groff (witness's husband), Ashley Taylor-Hull, and Peter Hull (family members)[^2]

**Investigative Mandate as Stated on the Record:**
The interview was requested by Chairman James Comer as part of the committee's investigation into:

1. The circumstances and subsequent investigations into the crimes of Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell
2. The operation of sex trafficking rings and ways for the Federal Government to effectively combat them
3. The ways in which Epstein and Maxwell sought to curry favor and exercise influence to protect their illegal activities
4. Potential violations of ethics rules related to elected officials[^2]

## II. WITNESS BIOGRAPHY

**Lesley Groff** (born 1966, Dallas, Texas) is a native of Plano, Texas, raised in a Protestant home, and graduated from the University of Texas at Dallas[^2]. Her early career included working in her father's construction company, hostessing and waitressing in restaurant work, teaching dance through high school, working for her first husband's commercial office supply company in New Jersey after relocating there in 1990, and later selling men's clothing at Nordstrom's[^2]. She married her first husband in 1993 and divorced him; she subsequently married a man named Ike[^2].

In February 2001, she was recruited via a headhunter named "Russell" (last name not recalled) whose firm was located on Madison Avenue[^2]. The headhunter had originally contacted her via a resume posted on Monster.com for a position with the New York Knicks[^2]. After she missed that interview due to a snowstorm, the headhunter redirected her to a position working for a "wealthy businessman" described only as a "socialite" and "businessman."[^2] That same day, she walked to the Helmsley Palace at 457 Madison Avenue and interviewed first with Maxwell's assistant (name redacted), then with Ghislaine Maxwell, and then with Jeffrey Epstein[^2]. She was hired approximately one week later at a starting salary of $50,000 plus healthcare benefits[^2].

She served as Epstein's **executive secretary** from February 2001 through July 2019 — 18 years — without ever holding a different title[^2]. She took maternity leave of approximately 3 to 4 months when she gave birth to her son (circa 2005–2007)[^2]. As of the date of testimony, she is unemployed and receives no income[^2]. Her son, referenced in opening remarks, was 21 years old at the time of the interview[^2].

## III. OPENING STATEMENT (Groff, 10:20 a.m.)

Groff delivered a prepared written statement that constitutes the most significant self-exculpatory declaration in the entire transcript. Key elements in sequential order:

**Self-characterization:** She described herself as introverted, shy, and having no experience in public speaking or court testimony, calling the proceedings "petrifying."[^2]

**Prior cooperation:** She volunteered that she had previously spoken voluntarily with prosecutors in New York in 2021[^2].

**Central claim — no knowledge of crimes:** She stated directly, *"I believe that my testimony will dispel the false notions that, because of my employment with Epstein, I must have knowingly enabled or conspired with him to commit these evil acts. Nothing could be further from the truth."*[^2]

**Personal toll:** Since Epstein's 2019 arrest, she stated she has struggled with sleep and eating, lost friends and acquaintances, suffered harassment and death threats, and that her son's life has been "in turmoil."[^2]

**Epstein characterization:** She called him *"a monster"* and used the phrase "Dr. Jekyll" and "Mr. Hyde" — stating she worked for the former and was never permitted to see the latter. She described him as *"a master manipulator and deceiver who separated his legitimate life from his secret life as an abuser."*[2][5]

**Rationale for why Epstein would not have told her:** She stated he had no leverage on her; she was not sexually abused by him (unlike Sarah Kellen); her family was financially secure; and she was a total stranger to him when hired, giving him no logical reason to confide criminal activity in her[^2].

**Structural isolation — the guardrails:** Epstein and Maxwell established clear professional boundaries from day one. Groff was told she was a replaceable employee, forbidden from socializing with Epstein's contacts, and was put on **probation** early in her employment when she attended a party of one of Epstein's contacts with her husband — an incident Epstein and Maxwell found out about despite not being present[^2]. She was told she had "crossed a line" and was ordered to completely separate herself from his personal world[^2]. *"In hindsight, I wish he had fired me,"* she stated[^2].

**Physical access limitations stated:**

- Never on his airplane
- Never to one of his parties
- Never visited him in jail (2008 or 2019)
- Never accompanied him to **Little Saint James**, **Zorro Ranch**, or his **Palm Beach residence**
- Three total visits to Little Saint James: once with her husband, twice for construction work, all daytime, lasting only a couple of hours each[^2]
- Stayed at his Paris guest apartment once with her husband; Epstein was not present[^2]
- From 2001 to 2009, worked exclusively at the Helmsley Palace (457 Madison Ave.), where her office was in the rear of the suite and she **could not see who entered or exited**[^2]
- Offices moved to 66th Street, then 575 Lexington Avenue, then around 2013 to his 71st Street mansion[^2]
- From 2001 to approximately 2013, she never entered the mansion or its private quarters, including where massages took place[^2]

**Nonprosecution Agreement (NPA) disclosure:** She stated that it was not until *"sometime after"* Epstein's 2008 conviction that she learned the government and Epstein's lawyers had included her and others in the nonprosecution agreement as **potential conspirators** — a designation she

emphatically rejected: *"I am not a conspirator, and I never would have agreed to this language. Their unilateral decision to label me as a potential conspirator remains my scarlet letter."*[^2]

**Why she stayed after 2008 arrest:** Epstein told her he had been **blackmailed** and **set up**, that the allegations were false, and that the women involved had run a "shakedown for money." His attorney repeated the same account. She believed him and felt sorry for him[^2]. She also noted that *"the same VIPs continued to surround Epstein after his conviction"* — which she interpreted as further evidence he was innocent[^2]. She now acknowledges this was manipulation[^2].

**Emotional close:** *"My heart breaks for these women. I believe them. Words cannot express how badly I feel that I was employed by Mr. Epstein during the time he abused these women."*[^2]

## IV. MAJORITY EXAMINATION — BIOGRAPHICAL AND OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS

### A. Hiring and Early Employment

The committee opened with background questions confirming the following on the record:

- Groff was born in 1966 in Dallas, Texas[^2]
- She did not know who she was meeting with on the day of her interview until she arrived at the Helmsley Palace[^2]
- She had no prior knowledge of or relationship with Epstein before the interview[^2]
- Epstein was described to her as a "money manager" — she believed he managed other people's money, and named **Les Wexner** as his biggest identified client[^2]
- She also referenced **Rothschild** and **Mort Zuckerman** as individuals who called the office, though she was uncertain of client status[^2]
- Her role was exclusively as executive secretary; she never did work directly for any of those clients[^2]

### B. The Massage Scheduling Operation

This section represents one of the most substantively questioned areas of the entire interview.

**Routine:** Almost daily, Epstein called Groff at 9 a.m. with dozens of tasks. One of those recurring tasks was scheduling massages[^2]. He would provide a name and phone number; she would call and confirm availability. The calls lasted seconds: *"Hi, this is Lesley calling for Mr. Epstein; are you available for a massage at 4:00?"*[^2]

**Volume anomaly:** When committee members confronted her with the fact that Epstein had **more than 75 different individuals** listed as masseuses in his contact directory — an unusually large number for any legitimate massage practice — Groff responded: *"He had so many people in his realm and knew so many people. It doesn't strike me as odd that he has a lot of different people in his black book...I believe he had the same amount of people in other categories as well."*[^6]

**No personal contact:** She testified that she never met any of the masseuses in person[2][6]. She never saw who came and went through Epstein's private entrance[^2].

**Massage for guests:** On occasion, Epstein directed her to arrange massages for his guests — both men and women — at hotels and spas[^2]. She never arranged massages for prominent named associates (such as political figures or business figures), however[^7].

**Rep. Timmons' key exchange:** Congressman Timmons asked whether she ever scheduled the other assistants for massages. She answered **no**. He followed: "So everybody that you scheduled for a massage seemed like they possibly were a massage therapist?" She answered: "I believe that, yes."[^2]

**Photos forwarded to Epstein:** The FBI files showed Groff received **emails containing photographs of young women** which she forwarded to Epstein. Two such emails included "winky faces" from the sender. On the first, she stated: *"I don't recall this email. The date seems to suggest that it's possible he was looking for new traveling assistants."* On the second, she stated: *"To me, it sounds like she's a model."*[^6]

### C. "Traveling Assistants" — the Women in Epstein's Operation

The committee questioned Groff on what she called the "traveling assistants" — the women who would travel with Epstein and perform various errands. Groff's testimony reveals she was operationally connected to their logistics:

- She booked their travel arrangements
- She arranged housing — apartments or hotel rooms — for some of them, acknowledging *"it's possible that I was directed to provide them an apartment or a hotel room"*[^6]
- She arranged **hair appointments** for some of these women[^6]

**Her stated understanding:** *"I believed them to be traveling assistants, and none of them ever looked unhappy or under duress. They were — would travel with him and do errands and source things...I actually thought of them as fortunate."*[^6]

**Visa anomaly — the "decoy flight":** A particularly notable exchange involved a flight described in FBI files. Groff explained: *"This woman wanted to take a flight to visit Mr. Epstein. She did not want to tell her parents that she was going to take this flight. She wanted to keep a flight that was taking her to London and have a different flight, though, take her really to see Mr. Epstein. I don't know why she didn't want to tell her parents, but this was not for a visa."*[^6] She did not elaborate on how she understood a woman concealing travel from her parents to be benign.

## V. NAMED ASSOCIATES — COMMITTEE QUESTIONING BY INDIVIDUAL

### Donald Trump

Groff confirmed that she connected **phone calls between Epstein and Donald Trump** several times a year[^7]. She did not book Trump travel and did not know the nature of their relationship beyond characterizing it as "friendly" or possibly business-related[^7]. She stated she never personally met Trump and had no knowledge of any law enforcement communications involving Trump in connection with Epstein[^7].

### Les Wexner

Groff identified **Les Wexner** as Epstein's **biggest client** — the most substantive client relationship she was aware of during her 18 years[^2]. She handled calls from Wexner's office and routed them to Epstein. She did not describe any direct work she performed for Wexner and did not suggest knowledge of any criminal conduct involving him.

### Rothschild

Groff named "Rothschild" among those she believed to have been in Epstein's financial client orbit, though she was imprecise and could not confirm a formal client relationship with certainty[^2].

### Mort Zuckerman

Groff named **Mort Zuckerman** (media executive, real estate developer, owner of the New York Daily News and U.S. News & World Report at various times) as a frequent caller to the office, though she could not confirm whether he was a formal client[^2].

### Prince Andrew (Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor)

Groff testified that Epstein and Prince Andrew were friends who spoke and visited[^7]. She denied knowledge of Epstein or Maxwell introducing minor girls or young women to him and stated she had no knowledge of any sexual activity involving Prince Andrew and minors[^7].

### Bill Gates

Groff stated she did not know much about the nature of Epstein's relationship with Gates[^7]. She denied arranging massages for Gates[^7], and denied any knowledge of Gates being introduced to minor girls or young women[^7]. She did not know whether Gates flew on Epstein's planes[^7].

### Leon Black

Groff testified that she understood **Leon Black** (co-founder, Apollo Global Management) to be a financial client of Epstein's — a business relationship[^7]. She denied knowledge of any abuse, introductions of young women, or sexual activity involving Black[^7].

### Jes Staley

Groff described **Jes Staley** (then-Barclays CEO, formerly JPMorgan private banking) as having what she believed was a banking or business-related relationship with Epstein[^7]. She denied knowledge of any abuse or sexual activity involving Staley[^7].

### Larry Summers

Groff described **Larry Summers** (former U.S. Treasury Secretary, former Harvard University President) as having a friendly relationship with Epstein and said she connected phone calls from Summers to Epstein[^7]. She denied any knowledge of Summers being involved in or aware of abuse or introductions of young women[^7].

### George Mitchell, John Kerry, Wesley Clark, Ehud Barak

These names emerged in the later rounds of questioning[^7]. Groff acknowledged scheduling or connecting Epstein with these high-profile contacts but denied arranging any travel related to them or having knowledge of any involvement in Epstein's criminal activities[^7].

### Kathy Ruemmler

**Kathy Ruemmler** (former White House Counsel to President Obama; partner at Latham & Watkins who later became embroiled in controversy for her legal work related to Epstein) received specific scrutiny. Groff testified that she:

- Scheduled a **spa massage** for Ruemmler at Epstein's direction[^7]
- Arranged or purchased **spa gift cards** and **flowers** for Ruemmler[^7]
- Described Ruemmler's relationship with Epstein as **professional/business**, not romantic[^7]

This exchange is operationally significant as it places a former senior White House official within the gift-giving and spa-scheduling apparatus that the committee has identified as part of Epstein's broader influence network.

### Steve Bannon

Groff disclosed that Epstein sent **Apple Watches** to approximately **40 people**, including **Steve Bannon** and various staff members[^7]. She was one of the recipients. This revelation establishes Bannon as having been within the active gift-giving orbit of Epstein — a relationship not previously substantiated in prior testimony.

## VI. THE 2007–2008 FBI ENCOUNTER AND NPA

### FBI Visit to Groff's Home

Groff testified that **FBI agents came to her home in 2007**, served her with a subpoena, and asked questions related to Epstein[^7]. Upon receiving this subpoena, she contacted **Darren Indyke** (Epstein's longtime attorney and estate executor, who later testified before this same committee on March 19, 2026) and was told **not to speak without an attorney**[^7].

### The 2008 Nonprosecution Agreement — Named as Co-Conspirator

Groff confirmed that she, along with Sarah Kellen and others, was included in the **2007 Florida nonprosecution agreement** (commonly referred to as the NPA) as a **potential co-conspirator** and given immunity[2][5]. Critically, she testified she was not informed of this until *after* Epstein's conviction — meaning she did not consent to the characterization, did not negotiate its terms, and discovered it after the fact[^2].

The Department of Justice's 2019 internal FBI document listing Groff and others as potential conspirators was also disclosed — Groff's attorney told MS NOW that she had never seen that document and was "unaware of it" before its public release[^5].

### 2021 Voluntary Cooperation

Groff confirmed she later voluntarily met with prosecutors in New York in 2021 and answered all their questions[^2]. Her attorney stated that following this cooperation, she was informed she would not be prosecuted[^5].

## VII. GIFTS AND FINANCIAL BENEFITS FROM EPSTEIN

This section was explored during questioning and yielded a detailed accounting of what Groff received beyond her base salary:

| Benefit | Description |
|---|---|
| Mercedes automobile | For commuting; Epstein provided or paid for it[^7] |
| Nanny | For her son; Epstein paid for childcare[^7] |
| Cosmetic treatments | Botox and Accutane; Epstein paid[^7] |
| Son's preschool tuition | Epstein paid[^7] |
| Equinox gym membership | Epstein paid[^7] |
| Bonuses | Occasional cash bonuses beyond salary[^7] |
| Apple Watch | One of approximately 40 sent by Epstein to staff/associates (others included Steve Bannon)[^7] |
| Spa gift cards / flowers | Also given to other women/associates including Kathy Ruemmler[^7] |
| Paris apartment stay | Used once with her husband; Epstein was not present[^2] |

## VIII. VICTIM DISCLOSURES vs. GROFF'S TESTIMONY — KEY CONFLICTS ON THE RECORD

Multiple victim accounts and FBI documents directly contradict Groff's core claims, and the committee confronted her with these on the record:

**Survivor account of disclosing minor status:** An FBI file contained a victim's statement that she began giving Epstein massages at **age 15** and told Groff directly that she was a minor. Groff's

response: *"I feel terrible for this survivor. I'm not saying that what she's thinking that she told someone, but she did not tell me. I think she is mistaken. I know she is mistaken."*[^6]

**Survivor statement to CNN (post-testimony):** Following the release of the transcript on June 22, 2026, multiple Epstein survivors told CNN they disputed Groff's account of key details, including her claim of ignorance[^8].

**Epstein victim Nina Lacerda:** Lacerda, who reported being 14 when first victimized by Epstein, told ABC News that *"anything related to Jeffrey Epstein had to go through Lesley Groff"* and stated *"I believe she knows much more than what we realize."*[^5]

**FBI file:** A separate 2019 FBI document (released via DOJ document dump) included a survivor interview in which the survivor stated she believed Groff *"knew what was happening"* and *"was aware that the massage appointments were sexual"* — though the survivor also acknowledged she *"never communicated anything to Lesley regarding the massages."*[^5]

**Rep. Ansari's characterization:** Prior to the hearing, Rep. Yassamin Ansari (D-AZ) stated to CNN that Groff *"managed every aspect of Jeffrey's life for nearly 18 years"* and that *"she was responsible for setting up appointments with all these girls to provide massages to Jeffrey Epstein."*[^4]

## IX. INTELLIGENCE OBSERVATIONS AND ANOMALIES

The following are analytical observations drawn exclusively from the transcript and corroborating congressional record:

**1. The "75+ masseuse" anomaly.** The committee's confrontation of Groff with more than 75 unique masseuse-contact entries in Epstein's black book is significant. No legitimate massage operation requires 75+ providers. Groff's non-answer — that Epstein simply knew many people in every category — is consistent with deliberate deflection or genuine compartmentalization, and is analytically inconclusive without further corroboration.

**2. The guardrail mechanism.** The early-employment incident in which Epstein and Maxwell discovered Groff attended a party she was not supposed to attend — despite neither being there — suggests the operation had **active monitoring of staff social behavior**. The fact they "somehow found out" and immediately placed her on probation demonstrates a sophisticated awareness and control structure.

**3. The decoy flight.** Groff's description of arranging a "decoy flight" for a woman who wished to conceal travel from her parents is a notable operational disclosure. This is consistent with trafficking methodology. Groff presented it without apparent recognition of its implication.

**4. The NPA blindsiding.** If Groff's account is accurate — that she was included in the 2007 NPA as a potential co-conspirator without her knowledge or consent — this raises significant questions about how the NPA was structured and who was protected by it. Darren Indyke (who told Groff not to speak to the FBI in 2007) was himself named in the NPA and later provided testimony to this same committee.

**5. The "same VIPs continued to surround him" admission.** Groff's statement that seeing powerful figures continue to associate with Epstein after his 2008 conviction is what convinced

her of his innocence is, in reverse, a confirmation that the continuation of elite association directly enabled Epstein's ongoing operation and her continued employment within it.

**6. Name appears 150,000+ times in DOJ files.** CNBC reported that Groff's name appears over 150,000 times across the DOJ-released Epstein files — more than virtually any other associate[^4]. This volume is anomalous for a secretary and consistent with someone at the operational center of the enterprise.

**7. Chaplain's presence.** The House Chaplain Margaret Kibben attended the interview — a detail noted in the official record and flagged as atypical by media outlets[^4]. No explanation was provided in the transcript.

## X. COMMITTEE REACTION AND SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS

- Rep. Robert Garcia (Ranking Member, D-CA) stated before the hearing that Groff was *"crucial to understanding Epstein's organization"* and that the committee had *"many questions."* [^5]
- Rep. Melanie Stansbury (D-NM) said after the hearing: *"Everything about this case is strange."* [^9]
- The Gates and Groff transcripts were jointly released by the committee on **June 22, 2026**[1] [10]
- The release of the transcript prompted the subsequent scheduling of **Alan Dershowitz** for testimony on **July 20, 2026** — reportedly arising directly from details emerging in earlier interviews including Groff's[11][11]

## XI. SOURCE DOCUMENTATION LINKS

| Document | URL |
|---|---|
| Full Groff Transcript (PDF) | https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Lesley-Groff-Transcript.pdf |
| Committee Release — Gates & Groff Transcripts | https://oversight.house.gov/release/oversight-committee-releases-gates-and-groff-transcripts/ |
| Committee Request Letter to Groff (March 3, 2026) | https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/3.3.26-Lesley-Groff-TI-Request.pdf |
| House Oversight Full Release Archive | https://oversight.house.gov/release/ |

## References


1. Oversight Committee Releases Gates and Groff Transcripts - United States House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2. Lesley-Groff-Transcript.pdf - OFF 12 13 14 Tuesday, June 9, 2026 ... did you ever pay money to any person in exchange for a massage....
3. [PDF] Lesley Groff - Oversight and Government Reform

4. Jeffrey Epstein's former assistant Lesley Groff interviewed by House panel - Groff worked for Epstein for nearly 20 years, and her name appears more than 150,000 times in the Ep...
5. Jeffrey Epstein assistant Lesley Groff set to testify before House panel - Groff tells lawmakers 'I am not a conspirator' and that she had no knowledge of Epstein's crimes whi...
6. See What Jeffrey Epstein’s Longtime Secretary Told Congress - tovima.com - Lesley Groff said Epstein was a ‘master manipulator’ and she wasn’t aware of his criminal activities
7. Lesley Groff And The Transcript From Her Epstein Related Trip to Congress (Part 9) (7/5/26) - Lesley Groff told the House Oversight Committee that she worked for Jeffrey Epstein from February 20...
8. Epstein survivors: Former assistant Lesley Groff lied to ... - The first anonymous woman also said she received money in envelopes from Groff, and that it happened...
9. 'Everything about this case is strange': Oversight Dem on Epstein aide's testimony - Epstein's longtime aide Lesley Groff was questioned today by House lawmakers. Epstein victims allege...
10. Read the House transcripts of Bill Gates and Lesley Groff's interviews ... - The House Oversight Committee on Tuesday released transcripts of the testimonies by Bill Gates and L...
11. Full Testimony Schedule And Where Things Stand: June 26, 2026 - Dershowitz confirmed for July 20. Blanche for July. The committee has now interviewed sixteen witnes...